



Gang Starr Lyrics

"Name Tag (Premier & The Guru)"

[Guru]

The DJ's name is Premier, and I'm the Guru *[echoes]*

[x2]

[music fades]

[sound of a large crowd cheerin]

Will you please!

Will you please, take your seats and clear the aisles?!

[rapping sound, three times]

Gang Starr Lyrics

"Step In The Arena"

[DJ Premier cuts the phrase] "Step up..." over and over

[Guru]

Once you step in the arena, cheater; you're gonna be amazed when you gaze at the armor on this leader
Fully clad and glad to find a cause, I won't pause
 Fear is a joke, slowpoke, I'm like claws
 that'll rip 'cause your gift, is merely flesh
 Superficial and I wish you, would give it a rest
 But if you don't, I'll unsheathe my Excalibur
 Like a noble knight, so meet ya challenger
 A true hero, while you're a through zero
 Gettin beat to a pulp so that you can't run for help
I heard a gulp in your throat, cause you hope that I'll be merciful
 but coo-cluck, I made you strut as I rehearse a few
 battle drills, and watch your bladder spill
 yellow fluid, check out how I mellowed into it
 Face to feet to defeat, you can tell I'm into it
 As I'm pullin out my lance, to kill you and advance to
the winner's throne; cause I own you once you step in the arena

[DJ Premier cuts the phrase] "Step up..." over and over

[Guru]

In the arena... or rather colliseum
There's people gatherin by multitudes to see one
 perpretrator fall to the dust after the other
 Quickly disposed of at the hand of a known brother
 Born wit the art in his heart that is Spartacus
 And one-to-one combat Jack, just a thought of this
 match-up, makes GangStarr wanna snatch up
 one or two phrases from the new book with new pages
 of rhymes that are built like a chariot
 Dope vocals carry it, to the battle set
 If a beat was a princess, I would marry it
 But now I must bow to the crowd as I stand proud
 Victorius, glorious, understand now
 cause battles and wars and much fights I have been through
 One MC got beheaded, and you can too
 Forget it, cause you'd rather be just a spectator
 An onlooker, afraid you may get slayed or
 struck by a blow, from a mic gladiator
 I betcha that later you might be sad that you played yourself
 cause you stepped up, chest puffed out
 And in just one lyric, you got snuffed out
 Cause rhymin is serious, I'm strong, I'm like Hercules
 You'll get hurt with these lines, close the curtains please

and suckers can jet cause I wreck once you step in the arena

[DJ Premier cuts the phrase] "Step inside my... arena" over and over

[Guru]

In the arena or forum, weak MC's I will floor 'em
Causin mayhem, I'll slay them, and the blood'll be pourin
Furthermore I implore, that as a soldier of war
I go in only to win and be the holder of more
trophies, titles, and triumphs cause I dump all the sly chumps
Never choosin to lose my spot, not once
For the mere idea of an opponent that I fear
is foolish utterly, I mean but none'll be
tryin to toy wit a destroyer of many
You shitted your pants cause you can't figure any
foe that can step to this concept so
tou better sit again citizen, weak MC's I get rid of them
Watch the way they get distraught when they get caught
in the worst positions, cause they didn't listen
and tried goin up against a hungry killer who's itchin
to mame and murder, those who claimed that they were the
toughest ones, they get done once they step in the arena

[DJ Premier cuts the phrase] "Step inside my... arena"

Gang Starr Lyrics

"Form Of Intellect"

[DJ Premier cuts:]

[KRS-One:] "Intelligent but not yet equivalent"

[Guru]

Tell me, do you have a clue of what to do
Can you groove to this smooth tune, you must presume
it's important, for you to follow this creation
And hey Son, life is more than having fun
So run and get some help with the problems that you face
Take a taste of the bass put your perspective in place
Get real, deep, so you can keep involved
Revolve and solve, so you can make the calls
like a supervisor he who is wiser than the others
Cause they need someone to advise them to discover
things that they don't know so the papers I will check
Then they'll start to grow to this form of intellect

[DJ Premier cuts:]

[unknown:] "individual with intellect"

[Guru]

When the road is too steep, do you have the stamina
First album took us two weeks, since then we have been plannin
an exclusive attraction, produce it to your satisfaction
Those of you lackin, we will put you back in your slime
so you can think and get a grip of
yourself by yourself, and then you'll get a sip of
a gift that's equipped with the script that shocks
You can take a walk ?on God?
With your mouth wide open, hoping you can find a
way to display similar actions in a kind of mockery
Cause you don't realize the cost to be
creative genius please, I'm too clean to play
Glance per chance, watch GangStarr perfect
And dance your pants like champs, to this form of intellect

[DJ Premier cuts:]

[Lord Finesse:] "Man with intellect"

Valuable solutions, we invent here
Break and remake the cupcakes to show we've been sent here
to serve you, so swallow this and bite it
And why bring, ignorance when we're inviting
you to get advancement, while you're on the dance tip
And don't you know the transcript will make you shake hips
Or chill at will, and with skill, you'll learn some etiquette
Better get the subject or be last at the predicate

And get a set, of headphones and speakers
As lyrical lessons manifest, I will keep you
abrest of the best, in this rap mess
Oversaturated market, full of wackness
I'm Gifted Unlimited, Rhymes Universal
The GURU, nursing you with a verse spilled
Don't choke, and don't turn blue in a frenzy
Premier's severe, on the steel wheels he lends me
spontaneous cuts, but not mainly just that
It's the scratching format, exact with maddening accuracy
Craftily, on the side or in back of me
Nastily, as if his name was Dick Dastardly
Original so get it yo the Gang gets respect
The chain and the star is a symbol, of this form of intellect

[DJ Premier cuts:] "intelligent but not yet equivalent" [to the end]

Gang Starr Lyrics

"Execution Of A Chump (No More Mr. Nice Guy Pt. 2)"

I knew this chump see... he tried to play me
He was my right hand man, but he betrayed me
I let him chill at my crib, cause we were down and
I went to work everyday while he was loungin
He tried to backstab, he kept on jokin
He didn't know he could've got his back broken
I had to cut homeboy off for even tryin that
His game was mad weak, know what I'm sayin black?
Stepped to him quietly, he copped a plea
Told him to fix it or I'd have to catch a body
In this society, there's many snakes
Don't be too eager when you're seeking a break
Cause chumps will exploit, use you to benefit
So just be keen and, learn all the ins of it
I've had my share, of dealing with fake men
I left them squealing, "It was I who did the taking"
Proceeding exactly, according to plan
I foiled the scheme cause it seemed I was that man
And if you step up like the kid who did front
You will bear witness... the execution of a chump

Now, now... let's get the purpose of it
I'm snatchin hearts out of chumps, cause I deserve to love it
Observin acts of a snake, while I evaluate
Eliminate the nucleus, I'm doin this
Pissed usin fists usin force of any sort
My conscience says it's nonsense, if I put up with it
It meaning sleazy, sorry-type slick types
I'll drive em all to danger, and make em hitchike
Cause if you step up like the kid who did front
You will bear witness... the execution of a chump

Call me the Guru... known as a spiritual teacher
I'll reach you deftly, directly, correctly so select me
Elect me as your prophet and we'll praise him as I drop it
Pursue this, review this, I knowledge more than buddhist monks, punk
I'll wreck the set and grab a big chunk
Known to be a wise one, known to be a seeker
Following my calling in life, so I can keep the
minds in line to find devine designs of rhyme
Rewind this on your box one time
But if you step up like the kid who did front
You will bear witness... the execution of a chump

Gang Starr Lyrics

"Who's Gonna Take The Weight?"

[Intro]

"Knowledge is power, and knowledge can be the difference between life or death...you should know the truth and the truth shall set you free."

[Verse 1]

I was raised like a Muslim
Prayin' to the East
Nature of my life relates rhymes I release
like a cannon
Cuz I been plannin' to be rammin' what I wrote
straight on a plate down your throat
So digest as I suggest we take a good look
At who's who while I'm readin' from my good book
And let's dig into every nook and every cranny
Set your mind free as I slam these thoughts
And just like a jammy goes pow [FX: Gunshots]
You're gonna see what I'm sayin' now
You can't be sleepin'
cuz things are gettin' crazy
You better stop being lazy
There's many people frontin'
And many brothers droppin'
All because of dumb things, let me tell you somethin'
I've been through so much that I'm such
a maniac, but I still act out of faith
that we can get the shit together so I break
on fools with no rhymes skills messin' up the flow
And people with no sense who be movin' much too slow
And so, you will know the meaning of the Gang Starr
Guru with the mic and Premier raise the anchor
swiftly, as we embark on a journey
I had to get an attorney
I needed someone to defend my position
Decisions I made, cuz now it's time to get paid
And ladies, these rhymes are like the keys to a dope car
Maybe a Lexus or a Jaguar
Still, all of that is just material
So won't you dig the scenario
And just imagine if each one is teachin' one
We'll come together so that we become
A strong force, then we can stay on course
Find your direction through introspection
And for my people out there I got a question
Can we be the sole controllers of our fate?
Now who's gonna take the weight?

[Verse 2]

The weight of the world is heavy on my mind
So as my feelings unwind I find
That some try to be down just cuz it's trendy
Others fall victim to envy
But I'll take the road less travelled
So I can see all my hopes and my dreams unravel
Relievin' your stress, expressin' my interest
In the situation that you're facin'
That's why I'm down with the Nation
Spirituality supports reality
We gotta fight with the right mentality
So we can gain what is rightfully ours
This is the meaning of the chain and the star
Land is power, so gimme forty acres
Let's see how far I can take ya
Original invincible
That's how I'm lookin' at it
I use my rhymes like a Glock automatic
Any means necessary, I'm goin' all out
Before the rains bring the nuclear fallout
So let me ask you, is it too late?
Ayo, who's gonna take the weight

Gang Starr Lyrics

"Beyond Comprehension"

Expanding the depth of your brainpower
Ours is a better gift, not to be bragging nor lolligagging
I can see dimensions of sound and light around my mic
Transmitting lyrics like teletype
Reacting to a beat in a whisper
And like a transistor, I'm sounding dope when I'm crisper
The shortest length between two points is a straight line
I've gotta take mine, I heard it through the grapevine
that some can't find hype lines (hype lines...)
And so I'm smothering, over my prey I am hovering
Suckers I'm shoving at the same time covering
you with the blanket of some language that's distinguished
How swift can I get? You ask and I'll tell
For I can excel real well like a gazelle
Past your head, I'm grabbin abstract thought
Like some gain glory, while others get no part
I feel for the hurt ones, the victims of wrong deeds
Awareness is key, our people have strong needs
Science, math, history theology
Philosophy psychology english and biology
Et cetera, and all of these have a purpose
But genocide makes me nervous
So many questions, many opinions to mention
And damn (damn...) this jam's beyond comprehension

Like planets in orbit, we ride the life cycle
Some take a rifle on the street cause it seems neat
Whatever turns you on I guess, that's why vests are in season
I'll do my show then I'm leavin
I'd rather be blastin dope sounds on the other side of town
than be there when they close the place down
But anyway, everyday, there's another way
for a person to just flip, so a brother may
simply go buckwild, get crazy and mad
I know the struggle my father had
Poetry it comes from within, and will always win
Hold captive bodies from end to end
And at a party, I'll survey then slay with the quickness
Displaying the fitness
Easing the mind and relieving the tension
And singing my own song... that's beyond comprehension

Gang Starr Lyrics

"Check The Technique"

[Guru]

You puny protozoa, you're so minute you didn't know the
Gang has been watchin but instead of just squashin you
I'm scoopin you up out of the muck you wallow in
like a cheif chemist, other scientists are followin
Plannin to examine you, on a petrie dish
Sticking you and frickin you, just a teenie bit
I'm clever, with science, but never relyin
on false words from cowards who forever be tryin
Insistin they come off, I let 'em get some off
Then come back wit drum tracks, their ears could get numb off
Blockbustin, like makin love, I'll never stop thrustin
into your system, so just listen
I'm like a neurosurgeon, operatin wit a purer version
I write prescriptions, of words that fit in
The thought gets prescribed, as I kick it live
Cause it's more that a style, it's conceptual genius
My effect on the scene is, to project that I mean this
You deadbeat, wait until you see my next feat
I get respect for the rep when I speak
Check the technique

[DJ Premier cuts]

"Check the technique.." [x3]
"Check the technique and see if you can follow it"

[Guru]

I'm rushin you like a defensive end as I recommend
that you comprehend, I could stomp you in
a battle, contest, or war, what will occur
will be the forfeiture, of your immature
insecure for sure, meek, weak visions of grandeur
To rudely awaken you, and then'll be breakin you
Taxin without askin and trackin and snakin you
Makin you succumb to the drums of GangStarr
By far we are, truly gifted ones son
But if you were to speculate or estimate us losin
you'll be dyin, tryin to face the fate of your delusions
Cause miscalculation, is all you're statin
So I'm chumpin, puntin punks just like footballs
Cause I wanna put y'all, back in the messhall
to clean up the slop, and stop all the bullcrap
Your rap's crazy wack, so don't try to pull that
You're lackin the vernacular, I'm slappin ya and cappin ya
and closin your jaw, cause you can't mess with GangStarr
The Guru and Premier always dope with the blessed beats
Dance your ass off Hobbes, check the technique

[DJ Premier cuts]
"Check the technique.." [x4]

[Guru]

"Bon voyage", "Sayanora", "Arriva derci"
Your ass gets busted doodoo mustard, you tried to work me
 You irked me - because you copy and falsify
And I don't care how many step up, cause you all can try
 to wish and fish for a style, here's a fishin rod
These rhymes are hittin hard, constantly I'm gettin large
 Inevitably, I readily kick a slew
 of lyrics so deep, so don't sleep, but just peep me
Puttin methods on records and spinning for each millisecond
 33 RPM's displays the art of men
 And as my rymin builds you see my time it's chill
 ..and then I look upon weak ones
 I'm teachin each one so they become redone
 Essays are relayed to twist you up like French braids
 or tied up like corn braids, cause I got a strong way
 Force like police raids to never be delayed
 I once was the least paid but I made the grade
 Cause this ain't a slave sale and I ain't the same stale
 rapper, no, I'm not a phony microphonist wit no blaster
 No type of real appeal or real - talent
 And it makes me violent man
 To see all of these peewee bee MC wannabees
 makin G's for some dumb companies
and lots of money but no idea what is rap and what is dope
 So check out what the Guru wrote
 Cause I will prevail, give you tales as I unveil
 Have enough braincells so I can stay paid well
Now I'm in the driver's seat, and rockin the liver beats
 Bouncin and boomin and blastin you to the next seat
 Shiek and unique with lots of kick like a cleat
 Check the technique

(.. chief unique technique..)
(.. chief unique technique..)

[DJ Premier cuts]
"Check the technique.." [x3]
"Check the technique and see if you can follow it"

Gang Starr Lyrics

"Love Sick"

[Verse 1]

Strangely enough I've been struck
Affected by her smile
And yo, her style is worthwhile
And knowing that I'm deep like a river
I feel I should give her
Things that those others can't deliver
Contrary to what I had wished
it seems that I've been dissed
But hey, I don't want to miss this
wonderful opportunity
My boys they try schoolin' me
But see I know what I want
Someone who'll be there for the whole nine
This honey is so fine
But now she's hung up the line
Upset because I told her I'm busy
She made like a grizzly
And started chewin' my head off
Screamin' that I spend more time with friends
And also, she said I ruined her weekend
I said "I know the stuff we had planned
but please understand
Right now I'm loungin' with my man"
I guess I didn't realize I'd hurt her
She said I had the nerve to
just neglect her like that
Then she started bringing up past things
and she kept asking
how come our love isn't lasting
I said, "Hey baby, please calm down
cuz I'm still around
and it's for you that my heart pounds
Can I call you later on?
You say I treat you wrong?
But why you flippin' on me?"
She said something else and then click
Left me alone on the phone with the tone
And now I'm lovesick

[Verse 2]

Relationships can grip with the pain
Arguments in the crib, in the streets, on the train
I'm crazy fed but then still
When she ain't there I feel sad, I feel ill
Frowning cuz I'm down in the dumps
The other night I took her out

so she could shake her rump
But after we were there for a few
 Some girls that I knew
Stepped up and asked me to come to
 a party they were havin' at their house
I looked at my girl, and yo, she started walkin' out
 I said "Hey love, just wait for a second
 And won't you just check it?
 It's all a part of makin' records
Those were just some friends in the business
 No need to get angry
 So listen up while I kick this
 And what about the things we discussed
 about havin' trust?
 What's all this attitude stuff?
 Now hon, you know that I wouldn't play you
But time after time, you let your jealousy sway you
 Hey don't you turn your back like that
 Come on, this is wack
 You're heated up like a thermostat"
 Then she stepped off in a whirlwind
 and I don't know when
 or if I'm gonna see her again
I coulda sworn she was the right one to pick
 But now...man I'm just lovesick

Gang Starr Lyrics

"Here Today, Gone Tomorrow"

Many MC's are mislead
Mislead by the lies that they pump in their heads
The money and the fame that they're hoping to find
Will never come close to the scope of my rhyme
Now some have been succesful but really
And yo, these MC's are clearly not nearly
Up to this level or should I say caliber
Because I'm hype that the company's selling me
Because they'll take a dud, talk some crud and then push him
But in the next year, someone new will just squoosh him
Because when you sell out to appeal to the masses
You have to go back and enroll in some classes
So cash in your check 'cause it's the last one you get
The tables have turn and now you ain't in effect
So jet to the rear and you better just follow
'Cause what's here today maybe gone tomorrow

Here and gone in a flash, some made cash
While other suckers go broke real fast
Some never make any money but still they act funny
Like they're thinking they're running
Things, wearing rings and medallions
Then listen to their rhymes when we rather take valiums
'Cause swiftness and skills they are lacking
So I send them packing, they should have know not to tax in
And smashing all of the vocals to smithereens
Watching them collecting themselves 'cause they ?(bitter seen)?
But some find happiness while others find sorrow
And what's here today, maybe gone tomorrow

Gang Starr Lyrics

"Take A Rest"

*[Sugarhill Gang] "Now what you hear is not a test"
[cut up x4 by DJ Premier]*

[Guru]

Well goodness gracious, let me just take this
time out to pull a rhyme out, and update this
For you and yours, simply because
Some MC's have luck but suck
So I pluck em like feathers on the back of a chicken
Cause I'm mad like a pit when my man says, "sick 'em"
Positive is the mindstate, but it could still mean that
I will kick a ill, malicious like mean rap
Suckers they forced me, to knock em all out and
They think they know things, like what I'm about and
They try to analyze criticize scandalize
The outcome is death, don't ask me to sympathize
Realize, that I'm not to be played with
I'll flip so fast, you won't know I'm the same kid
I'm tired and fed, with all the weak stuff said
All the phony-baloney, that went out like Pro-Keds
You've got no leads, so you shoot blanks
It's me the crowd thanks as I step to the top ranks
Bankin my money, and investin it wisely
Snatchin up chumps when they try to sneak by me
I'm the dominant one, call me the prominant one
And as I'm speakin I'll be bombin the dumb
deaf and blind cause I was born with a sharp mind
Eatin MC's with ease like it's lunchtime
or crunchtime, when they get done without warning
I'll bust that butt from nighttime til morning
Your song's boring, and so I'm scoring
much points cause when it's time to throw joints
I cause havoc, the mic I grab is like savage
I invade the stage, and make you get off
The force is like a three-eight, blowin your head off
And that's just in case you might be wearin a vest
Cause you're simply a pest in this mess I suggest you
"Take a rest"

*[KRS-One] "If this meaning doesn't manifest, put it to rest"
[DJ Premier cuts x2]*

[Guru]

Don't ever sleep son, peep one or two of these lines here
Arranged by a great brain, delivering rhymes clear
and concise with a nice dope voice and
killin the fakes like a taste of some poison

Punks are thinkin they're alla that, their voices are all flat
They're findin their names, in a Wack Rapper's Almanac
 Me follow that hollow crap, no way Jose
I'll seek out a better sound, to somethin Premier plays
 Days will go by, and soon you'll know why
 MC's like me will rise like the Enterprise
 Starship, headin straight for the target
 Destination, a place where no perpetration
 is permitted, the Guru is with it to explain
How some MC's are scared to ride on a Four train
 Or any other train in the city, for that matter
 Playin a role that they stole like a batter
 But I know they ain't so I'll paint the real picture
 My vocals go solo and like a bolo I'll hitcha
square in your face I'll crack your ribs and your chest
 Cause you thought your off-brand jam was the best
You fessed cause you guessed people would be impressed
 I'm gonna bust that bubble on the double "take a rest"

[DJ Premier cuts "take a rest" for the chorus]

[Guru]

Sit back and reflect, ponder and chill out
Rhymes like daggers make blood spill out
 But you can't blame me, for bringin disaster
With all these ducks, claimin that they're the masters
 Only thing they mastered, is how to get wacker
 As I roll uphill, they roll downhill faster
Now they're wondering how they lost their touch
 Wanna buy my rhymes but mine cost too much
 I'm the innovative one, call me the creative one
 and I won't stop til the job is done
 All the slobs just run when I come to get some
Cause they know better, than to challenge this go-getter
 They get bust you can trust cause I won't let a
 booty-ass rapper get wins against me?
 I guarantee that I won't act friendly
Cause crabs have a nerve and deserve to get whipped on
 Their girls get kissed on, while they get flipped on
 I slaughter and slay, or slap em up quick
 Cause the lyrics they kick make me seriously sick
 No substance, no value, but nevertheless
They're gettin daytime play but I still say they should "take a rest"

[DJ Premier cuts "take a rest" for four bars, then song fades]

Gang Starr Lyrics

"What You Want This Time?"

[Verse 1]

[Scratch: Telephone ringing]

"Who's this? Juanita? Fatima? Solika? Oh, it's Freda?
Look, I have a question, just what is it that you need
A man, a lover, maybe someone to talk to?
Or could it be you're schemin'? Oh, not you!
Well listen, I got this phone installed for business
And who gave you our number? Seriously, what is this?
The new fad? Now you wanna kick it to a rapper,
DJ or dancer? Well I don't have the
Time for no stunts, no hookers and no games
Our name and our fame is for the long way we came
The struggle, the hassle, the hustle, the fight
And you're asking me if you can see me tonight?
Don't you know the Guru's not the type to be out skeezin'
The reason is because I do believe in
Havin' the right to choose the one I want
And, if I had a girl, why would I front?
You're only gonna get your feelings hurt, miss
And truthfully I really don't wanna have to diss
My music means everything to me, it's my life
So make like a camper, and go take a hike
You can't mess with my mind, and don't tie up my line
You called yesterday, so what you want this time?"

[Verse 2]

"A-yo Premier (Yeah?) Who's that knockin' at the door?
(Yo man, it's Vicky) Vicky? Are you sure?
The one from down the block who was actin' all hot
She stops me all the time and says she likes me a lot?
How does she know where we live, I didn't tell her
And word is bond, duke, I'm not the fella
No matter what I say this young lady's persistent
For instance, she watches me from a distance
And if I walk by and I forget to say hi
She pushes up on me and rubs me with her thigh
I told her I was taken, but she doesn't care
A-yo, do me a favour, tell her I'm not here
Forget it, I think she heard my voice already
You can let her in, but I'm tryna cook spaghetti
Oh, hello, how you doin'? Who me? I'm fine
I don't mean to be rude, but...what you want this time?"

Gang Starr Lyrics

"Street Ministry"

Presenting you with alternative music
'Cause, yo, the struggle is tough, and we must learn to live through it
 Pleasure and pain, pain and pleasure
We gotta maintain a balance to obtain the treasure
 Not really preaching or teaching but just reaching
 Out to a brother or sister who is keeping
 The faith and trying hard to get straight
The time is crucial so I think we must congregate
 Let's have a meeting of the minds
 Before we all fall and get left far behind
 Finding a way is important
Map out a plan, take a stand, you can work it
 The future's all in your hands and
So of yourself, yea, you should be demanding
 We're all responsible for whatever outcome
 That's why I speak over beats for my income
Knowledge is key and if you ask what it is, G
 It's just a form of my style of street ministry
 Street ministry...

Gang Starr Lyrics

"Just To Get A Rep (LP version)"

Stick up kids is out to tax [x2]
And this is how the story goes

Brothers are amused by others brother's reps
But the thing they know best is where the gun is kept
'Cause in the night, you'll feel fright
And at the sight of a 4-5th, I guess you just might
Wanna do a dance or two
'Cause they could maybe bust you for self or wit a crew
No matter is you or your brother's a star
He could pop you in check without a getaway car
And some might say that he's a dummy
But sticking you and taking all of your money
It's a daily operation
He might be loose in the park or lurking at the train station
Mad brothers know his name
So he thinks he got a little fame
From the stick-up game
And while we're blaming society
He's at a party with his man
They got their eye on the gold chain
That the next man's wearing
It looks big but they ain't staring
Just thinking of a way and when to get the brother
They'll be long gone before the kid recovers
And back around the way, he'll have the chain on his neck
Claimin' respect, Just to get a rep

Ten brothers in a circle
Had the kid trapped, the one wit the hood, he said, "We'll hurt you"
If you don't run out your dues and pay
Give up the Rolex watch or you won't see another day
See, they were on the attack
And one said, "Yo, you wanna make this to a homicide rap?
Make it fast so we can be on our way
Kick in the rings and everything, ok?"
The kid was nervous and flinching
And little shorty with the 3-8, yo, he was inchin
Closer and closer, put the gun to his head
Shorty was down to catch a body instead
Money was scared so he panicked
Took off his link and his rings and ran frantic
But shorty said, "Now" pulled the trigger and stepped
It was nothing, he did it just to get a rep

Gang Starr Lyrics

"Say Your Prayers"

So many things will happen that one can't explain
You find yourself saying "who me", time and again
They say what goes around, comes around
ahun, so think about it while you're messing up clown
A mother's love and a father's concern
Here is the reason you should listen and learn
'Cause quick schemes and fast living can kill ya
I know how the excitement and danger can thrill ya
But take it from somebody who knows
'Cause after all the highs, you're gonna feel all the lows
This is why knowledge of self is essential
'Cause if you don't have it, you may simply go mental
See, life is not a thing to be toyed wit
'Cause every second, another dream is destroyed wit
The systematic plan devised to erase us
And straight to hell is where they're trying to take us
But never fold and hold back your fears
Have a strong mind and try to say your prayers

Gang Starr Lyrics

"As I Read My S-A"

[DJ Premier scratches] "at this time I have the honor to present to you"

[Guru]

Paraphraps, portraying my viewpoint
So stay attentive, cause this is a new joint
From the G-A-N-G with the info
Lyrical elements emerge from the intro
Forming a poetic mass over pathetic trash
Other writers are outclassed
Surpassed by the words and the wit
Rhymes fit and hit cause that's how we designed it
Page for page, we are the new age
Dope in the videos and dope when we're on stage
Commanding respect with my ink pen while suckers are sinking
as I'm keeping them thinking
Narrating phrases of value, and I can see now you
relate to what I create
From back in the days of my youth, I've looked for the truth
And yo my rhymes are the real proof
New heights and new realms have been reached
by use of my speech along with one of Premier's beats
So listen and we'll show you the best way
and then sway, as I read my S-A

[DJ Premier cuts and scratches again]

[Guru]

Worshipful words giving insight, so just be observant
so you can get this right
My oratory gift is abundant, so dazzling to minds
that you should come get
a glimpse of the one who puts wimps out of work
The script is a mess and they dress like they're jerks
Beyond them, is where I'll be dwellin
The Guru will tell em, why their records ain't sellin
Placin my fingers on the tool, I runaway all fools
when I'm dispersin a verse
Think of an enjoyable moment, then boogie your body
Cause this party I own it
The origin of this is on paper
Vibes will ascend from my mind to each line
I go with the flow as I show expertise
The powers increase as my voice hits the streets
Then gripping your soul with authority
I pour these rhymes in a cup so drink up
And then I might bring another round
Watch the sound pound from the floor to the ground

And keep aware, cause we'll show you the best way
And then sway, as I read my S-A

Gang Starr Lyrics

"Precisely The Right Rhymes"

[Guru]

My subject matter and context are blessed
Vocal inflection connects, it's a slugfest
Ladies approach to hear quotes from the spokesman
Thoughts are like oceans for my lyrics to float in
I'm absolutely astute so salute
You try to be cute, and you get tossed like a crap shoot
Don't misinterpret or slander
Just get with the words and the way I command ya
Cause you're in the right place, and luckily it's the right time
And since I'm inclined, I'll kick precisely the right rhymes

[Premier cuts and scratches] "to kick the right rhyme"

[Guru]

Listen listen listen I'll tell ya
My rhymes are like shelter, or rather like an umbrella
Protecting you from the weak stuff you heard from those creampuffs
about the schemes that they dreamed of
About the way they slayed this one or that one
but won't step to me, cause they know the last one
who tried to match the panache of the Guru
received a curse that was much worse than voodoo
Cause the effect of my voice is immense
It would make more sense if suckers hide in the basement
But yo I don't look for hassles, my rhymes are like castles
I got much flavor and class too
I know you've notice I'm a writer of hype lines
Because I'm inclined, to kick precisely the right rhymes

[Premier cuts and scratches] "to kick the right rhyme"

[Guru]

Precisely the right rhymes, simplistic but packed
with power and punch, and yo you might want to step back
But stay close as your host serves hors d'oeveurs
Satisfying your cravings, and calming your nerves
See I have an interest, in giving you more than the next man
Cause my style is pure and
if you are sane and remain in your right mind
You'll see I'm inclined, to kick precisely the right rhymes

[Premier cuts and scratches] "to kick the right rhyme"

Gang Starr Lyrics

"The Meaning Of The Name"

The meaning of the name GangStarr, well I'll tell ya
It means I find my mind can excel to
a greater type of thought, brought by the things that I've been taught
in relation to things that I rebel to divine and combine
with a sense of confidence
Accomplishments, are achieved off lots of gifts
But slopiness, I could never tolerate it
Not the Guru nor Premier you don't know how long we've waited
While other groups have faded, just like haircuts
We use sheer guts to open the earducts of your brain
to expose every vain
Cause you sound plain, insane, and mundane, it's a shame
You've got no beats, so you get no seats
at this table, you ain't stable with the mic cable
Kane and Able, jealous brothers
And I knew some girls who were overzealous lovers
But back to the act of developing the GangStarr track
It means that nothing can be wack
The music is picked right, the mic is gripped tight
The lyrics I kick right to a beat like Kryptonite power
Not withstood by any mortal or immortal
To make you get on the floor til
another dope jam we slam with precision
Bringing beams of light, like the colors in a prism
or reflections, through a spectrum
And all the soft silly suckers I'ma wet them
in other words destroy boy, and then claim my fame...
This is the meaning of the name

[DJ Premier cuts] "what does it all mean?"

[Guru]
GangStarr, it means a lot to me
It means I'm free to bust rhymes sporadically
Gang represents my boys or a posse
So just back up off me
And the Starr symbolizes the power
Making the suckers and weak brothers cower
We got strong, intelligent minds with a street sense
Crazy offense, and stupid defense
Now, have I made myself clear?
Or do I have to call on DJ Premier?
For he and I make up the songs that you long for
Meanwhile ducks just knock on the wrong door
Waiting for a call or for the doors to open
Cause they're hoping, that they'll get chosen
But to be chosen is a divine gift

You better get a job quick
See you can't rhyme and all your beats are weak
You oughta take a peak and check out the technique
 Seek, and you shall find
 GangStarr stands for mastermind
Simple and plain and yo this ain't no game lame...
 This is the meaning of the name

[DJ Premier cuts] "what does it all mean?"